



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 4

ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
61 FORSYTH STREET
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8960

AUG 28 2010

Mr. David Wilson, Chief
Bureau of Water
South Carolina Department of Health
And Environmental Control
2600 Bull Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Mr. Wilson,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the State's Triennial Review of Water Quality Standards (R. 61-68). Staff from Region 4 have attended a number of the stakeholder meetings held to date and have reviewed the proposed revisions for the aforementioned regulation. At this time, we have no comments regarding the State's proposed revisions, however, we would like to make one recommendation with respect to the criterion for arsenic.

During the State's last triennial review, the State adopted the arsenic drinking water maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 10µg/L and removed the other arsenic criteria for the protection of human health, namely the Organism Only and Organism and Water values. At the time of adoption, this was consistent with EPA policy with respect to arsenic and the newly adopted value was applicable to all waters of the State. However, due to other sections of the State Water Quality Standards regulation, it is possible that the intent regarding the application of the arsenic value may be misinterpreted. Therefore, EPA Region 4 recommends that, in addition to listing the arsenic value as a drinking water MCL, the State also list the 10µg/L value in both the Organism Only and Organism and Water columns of the appendix to the regulation.

Again, thank you for this opportunity to comment on the State's current Triennial Review of Water Quality Standards. We look forward to working with you over the coming months on this process. Should you have any questions or need further clarification on the above point, please contact Joel Hansel (404-562-9274) or Lydia Mayo (404-562-9247) of my staff.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joanne M. Benante for".

Joanne Benante, Chief
Water Quality Planning Branch